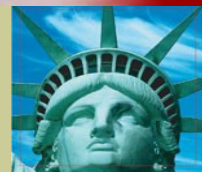


February 2008

Consul's Corner SPECIAL EDITION



Introduction of Passport Services by Mail

The Consulate General is pleased to announce that we have received authorization to accept certain passport applications for adults by mail, effective February 1, 2008. From now on, it will be possible to use mail services to renew most adult passports, apply for additional visa pages, apply for a new passport if your name has changed through marriage or divorce, or replace an emergency passport with a regular passport.

You may take advantage of this service if all the following apply:

- Your mailing address is in The Netherlands; **and**
- You can submit your last passport; **and**
- Your last passport was not limited, i.e. it was issued with a ten year validity period; **and**
- Your last passport was issued within the last 15 years; **and**
- You were not under age 16 when your last passport was issued; **and**
- You are not requesting a change in the passport data, other than a name change due to marriage or divorce; **and**
- You are not applying for a second passport.

This service is open to those applicants who are not required to make a personal appearance at the time of application. Further, if renewing an adult passport but unable to submit the application by mail because of an urgent need to travel, you must apply during our regular hours of operation.

We hope that these changes will be a major improvement in our service to American citizens in The Netherlands, and a great time-saver for all concerned!

For details and other important information, please see http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/passport_adults.html

Increases to U.S. Passport Fees and New Parental Signature Requirements for U.S. Minors

On February 1, 2008, the U.S. Government will increase its fees for certain U.S. citizen passport services. For adult applicants renewing a passport, the total fee will increase to \$75. For first-time applicants age 16 and over, the total fee will increase to \$100. The fee for minors under 16 years of age will be \$85. Effective February 1, 2008, passport applicants who are U.S. citizen minors under the age of 16 must appear personally with their parents to establish identity, proof of citizenship and proof of relationship. For parental application permission, both parents must appear together and sign, or one parent may appear to sign and submit the other parent's notarized statement, or one parent may appear, sign, and submit primary evidence of sole authority. Minors age 16 and 17 may apply in person with their own identification, but for security reasons, parental consent may be required. If your child does not have identification of their own, a parent will be required to accompany the child and present identification.

Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Consulate General's website <http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov> and the U.S. Department of State's travel website at <http://www.travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts can be found. The Consulate General also encourages U.S. citizens to review to "A Safe Trip Abroad," found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html, which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. Citizens living and residing in The Netherlands are advised to register their presence in the country through the U.S. Department of State's automated online registration system, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. U.S. citizens may also contact the Consular Section via e-mail at USCitizenServicesAMS@state.gov or by calling 020 575 5309 during telephone attendance hours from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.



The Consulate General will be closed on February 18, February 27, March 21, March 24 and March 26. In cases of emergency involving American citizens outside of normal business hours, please call 070-310 2209.

